

HOUSE BILL 2216

By Ferguson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 1; Title 55 and Title 67, Chapter 3, relative to alternative fuels and the implementation of incentives to encourage the production thereof.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-1-136, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(b)

(1) To accomplish the purposes of this section, the department may establish a grant program to render financial assistance to help pay the capital costs of purchasing, preparing, and installing fuel storage tanks and fuel pumps for biofuels at private sector fuel stations, including refueling stations along Tennessee's major highways. The department may apply for, and make reasonable efforts to secure, federal assistance and other funding sources for such a grant program. The department may attempt to maximize the total investment in biofuel refueling facilities.

(2) The department may also establish a grant program to render financial assistance for political subdivisions of the state and public colleges and universities to increase the number of vehicles that use alternative fuels in the fleets of such political subdivisions, colleges or universities.

SECTION 2. The department of agriculture is authorized to provide grants for public and private research into both the technology of converting Tennessee agriculture products, including, but not limited to, soybeans, switchgrass and other biomass, into alternative fuels and the production capabilities needed to deliver such alternative fuels to Tennessee consumers.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.